

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 SAM-01 TRSE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-01

L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 EURE-00 CPR-01 PER-01 AGR-05

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P 161829Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1456

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 273

USUN PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO

SUBJ: SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF AID TO PORTUGAL BY
AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

REF: (A) STATE 3619, (B) LISBON 153, (C) LISBON 268

1. PER PARA 7 REF (A) WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT
WITH RESPONSIBLE GOP OFFICIALS.

2. I HAVE REVIEWED OUR DESIRES IN THIS REGARD WITH JOAO
PEQUITO, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN
OFFICE; JOAO SALGUEIRO, VICE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF
PORTUGAL; AND MANUEL LOPES DA COSTA, SUB-SECRETARY IN CHARGE
OF EUROPEAN/AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ALL
THREE OFFICIALS REACTED POSITIVELY TO THE DEPARTMENT'S AND
THE AMBASSADOR'S DESIRE TO LOSE NO TIME IN MOVING AHEAD
WITH PORTUGUESE-U.S.ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. PEQUITO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOP CONTINUES TO SUFFER FROM
LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS IN ECONOMIC AREA. HE IS TRYING
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TO CENTRALIZE RESPONSIBILITY IN HIS OFFICE AND HOPES THIS WILL

BE USEFUL. I MADE HIM AWARE OF AMBASSADOR'S DESIRE TO DISCUSS USE OF AID FUNDS WITH PRESIDENT AFTER PRESENTATION CEREMONY PER PARA 3 REF (A) AND HE REACTED WELL TO THIS THOUGHT BUT MADE NO FIRM COMMITMENT RE PRESENTATION CEREMONY. PEQUITO ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT, WHILE RESPONSIBLE GOP OFFICIALS DESIRE US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, THEY AND WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION HERE AND NEED FOR CAREFUL HANDLING OF AID PROGRAM.

4. SALGUEIRO WAS GENERALLY UP-BEAT ABOUT PORTUGUESE ECONOMY. HE CLAIMED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN REPORTED IN PRESS, BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE. NONETHELESS HE TOO WELCOMED THE PROPOSED AID PACKAGE ALONG LINES OF PARA 3 REF (A).

5. LOPES DA COSTA TOOK THE POSITION THAT USG AID TO PORTUGAL WAS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE BUT NECESSARY. HE RECOMMENDED TEXTILE INDUSTRY AS A SECTOR WHICH COULD PAY POLITICAL DIVIDENDS, AND HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR RAPID MOVEMENT IN THE AID AREA.
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